

Mt. Vernon Voices

AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls
through research, education, and advocacy.

Volume 68 Issue 10 June 2025

Mt. Vernon Branch



CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Wrapping Up a Successful Program Year

On **Wednesday, May 29**, members gathered at the home of **Paula Lettice** to celebrate our **Annual Potluck**. We enjoyed a shared meal, reflected on another successful year of programs and activities, and took the opportunity to thank our board members and Named Honorees for their contributions.

The Potluck, as always, was a joyful and meaningful event—thank you to all who attended and made it special. (See photos on page 6.)

During May, some of our members have been **writing postcards** encouraging Northern Virginia citizens to vote in the Primary on June 17. **THANK YOU** goes to **Joanne Clark, Ofelia Perotti, Anne Simpson, Kathi Hanrahan, Bev Dyer, Liz Promen, Joanna Crane, Elaine Kolish, and Patsy Quick**. Together we mailed 220 postcards which is part of a statewide effort. In the Fall we will invite you to write postcards for the general election in Virginia. You will hear more in emails.

Please remember, with cards or visits, our members who are currently having health issues:



- **Ebba Jo Spettel** continues recovering with her new pacemaker at home. For cards, her address is 3003 Cunningham Drive, Alexandria, VA 22309.
- **Lois Passman** had a fall recently and is in the Care Center at The Fairfax. Her address is 9100 Belvoir Woods Parkway #314, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060
- Former member **Jeanne Gayler** had a fall recently and is at Inova Mt. Vernon Rehab on the 5th floor. For cards, her address is 2111 Mason Hill Dr., Alexandria, 22306.

Last but not least, please mark your calendars for the **June 21 Planning Meeting, at Sherwood Regional Library, 10:30 a.m.** We will discuss programs and vote for our favorites to schedule for the 2025-26 program year. Email your program ideas to Elaine, Patsy, or Solveig before the meeting. This event will end our formal activities until September. But the work of planning will continue through the summer.
See information on page 3.

We welcome our newly elected leaders to the board whose terms begin on July 1:

- **Beverly Dyer and Kathi Hanrahan**, Co-Vice Presidents for Program
- **Cathy Conron and Sandy Doyle**, Co-Secretaries

A huge **THANK YOU** goes to **Bianca Daugherty** for this final newsletter until September. She does a beautiful job each month and we hope you will let her know how much you appreciate her efforts.

See you soon,

Elaine and Patsy

TIME TO RENEW YOUR AAUW MEMBERSHIP

Unless you joined AAUW recently in a month other than June, it's time to renew your membership. You can pay directly online at AAUW.org, or send a check for **\$102**, made out to the Mt. Vernon Branch, to our branch treasurer:

Anne Simpson
1604 Old Drummer Boy Lane
Fort Washington, MD 20744

This year's dues have increased slightly from last year's \$100 to **\$102** and are allocated as follows:

- **\$74 to National**
- **\$15 to the State**
- **\$13 to the Mt. Vernon Branch**

Life Members please note: You still need to pay **\$28** to cover State and Branch dues.

Please take care of this soon—it's one less thing to worry about, and your support helps AAUW continue its important work.

Thank you for supporting AAUW!

Anne Simpson
Treasurer



BRANCH LEADERSHIP 2024 – 2025

Elected Officers

Co-Presidents:	Patsy Quick Elaine Kolish
Program Vice President:	Solveig Eggerz
Membership Vice President:	Susan Farmer
Treasurer:	Anne Simpson
Secretary:	Joanna Crane

Appointed Chairs

Bylaws:	vacant
AAUW Funds:	Cathy Krebs
Public Policy:	Mary Ellen Mehler
Newsletter/Website:	Bianca Daugherty

Newsletter/ Directory Distribution:	Mary Ellen Mehler
Nominating Committee Chair:	vacant
Hospitality:	vacant

Interest Groups

Book Group:	Liz Promen
Dining Out:	Cathy Conron Paula Lettice
Game Night:	Bianca Daugherty Paula Lettice
ImpromptEvent:	All Members

Contact Email: AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status.

ANNUAL PLANNING SESSION



**June 21, 2025, 10:30 a.m.
Sherwood Regional Library**

**Can-Do Sisters in AAUW
Gather to Plan 2025-26 Program Year**

Join us at this productive and fun gathering to enjoy light refreshments and discuss the program ideas that have been collected in order to plan for the next program year!

We will also be discussing the member survey results. If you have not yet filled out the survey monkey that **Elaine** sent out (the second time a few weeks ago), please do so now.

The list of program ideas will be emailed to everyone before the meeting so that you can provide input if you can't be there. Please send **Solveig** your ideas now, if you haven't already!

By the end of the meeting we will have selected the best ideas and tentatively scheduled them. Members volunteer to be Points of Contact. During the summer we hope that the word "tentative" becomes "confirmed." Participating is a great way to be involved and active in our branch. It's a stimulating, fun, and, important meeting.

PLEASE JOIN US!

BOOK GROUP

Monday, June 16, 2025 - 7:00 p.m.

Please inform the hostess whether or not you plan to attend.

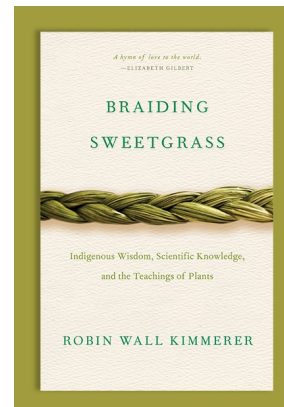
HOSTESS: Patsy Quick

5508 Old Mill Road
Alexandria

CO-HOST: Elaine Kolish

BOOK: Braiding Sweetgrass
by Robin Wall Kimmerer

REVIEWER: Joanna Crane



Contact Liz Promen if you are interested in joining the group.

GAME NIGHT

One last Game Night before our summer break!
Join us for an evening of fun, friendly competition, and good company!

Friday, June 27, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Home of Joanna Crane

Spouses and significant others are welcome to join in!



Contact Paula Lettice or Bianca Daugherty if you would like to join the group.
AAUW.MtVernon@gmail.com

IMPROMPTUEVENT



Alexandria Choral Society has one more concert this season.

On **Saturday, June 14**, they will present **To The Road**, the music they will be taking on tour to Ireland and Scotland, including our sister city Dundee, at the end of the month.

The concert will take place at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alexandria at 7 P.M.** Look for **Anne Simpson** in the alto section.

Tickets are usually **\$30**, but pay what you can. You can buy tickets ahead at the website, alexandriachoralsociety.org, or buy them at the door.

IMPROMPT EVENT - CALLING ALL BOOKLOVERS

An Afternoon with
CHRISTINE KESSIDES
Interview & Signing with the Award-Winning Author



Based on family history in WWI and Spanish flu era



The only positive snake story in Western literature!

**Sunday, June 8,
12 PM – 3 PM**
Elaine's Restaurant
208 Queen St
Alexandria, VA 22314

Meet Elaine's friend **Christine Kessides** at her debut Virginia book reading and interview on **June 8 from noon to 3.** Free.

Food and drink available for purchase.



**Elaine's Restaurant at
208 Queen Street in Old Town.**

AAUW LOBBY CORPS VIRTUAL TRAINING

If you want to make your voice heard with Congress on issues important to AAUW's mission, AAUW invites you to join AAUW's **Lobby Corps**.

No experience or expertise is necessary — only a commitment to promoting AAUW's nonpartisan public policy priorities.

**Join AAUW's upcoming virtual training on June 5,
from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. EST**

[Register here](#)

Lobby Corps gives you the tools to amplify your voice and make a real impact. As an AAUW Lobby Corps volunteer, you will:

- Visit congressional offices in Washington, DC, about twice a month (when Congress is in session). (You may also join lobby days whenever you are available—any time members can commit to advocating for AAUW policy priorities is greatly appreciated.)
- Receive issue briefings and talking points from AAUW staff.
- Team up with experienced advocates to make every visit impactful.
- Engage with other gender equity champions in your community.



Questions? Contact AAUW at advocacy@aauw.org.

A TASTY NIGHT AT BRANCH POTLUCK



Elaine and Patsy



Susan and Cynthia



Liz and Elaine



Kathi, Ofelia, Joanna, and Betty

Branch members gathered for the annual branch potluck on May 29, sharing delicious dishes and great company. A wonderful time was had by all! Thank you Paula for hosting!



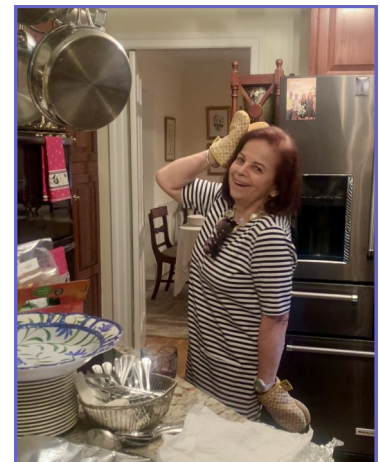
Anne



Patsy, Maureen, and Kathi



Barbara, Solveig, and Liz



Our host Paula



Bev and Cathy



Barbara, Elaine, and Anne

2024 - 2025 MT. VERNON BRANCH PROGRAM YEAR

Meeting Date and Place	Focus/Activity
Thursday, September 12, 2024, 1:30 PM Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Fundamentals of Estate Planning (estate planning, wills, trusts, beneficiaries) Speaker: Gretchyn G. Meinken, Esq.
Tuesday, October 15, 2024, 1:30 PM Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Election 2024 Speaker: Liz White of Upvote VA and Chris DeRosa & Janice Morris , of the League of Women Voters of Arlington/Alexandria "Ranked Choice Voting" team. (Discussion of Rank Choice voting.)
Saturday, November 2, 2024, 10:30 AM Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Speaker: Annie Ray , Grammy Award Winning Orchestra Teacher
Sunday, December 8, 2024, 11:30 AM Cedar Knoll, 9030 Lucia Ln, Alexandria, VA 22308	Holiday Event
Saturday, January 11, 2025, 10:30 AM Sherwood Regional Library (Zoom if bad weather)	AI Unleashed: The Future and Its Risks Speaker: Jennifer Swann , Director of Information Security at Bloomberg
Thursday, February 20, 2025, 1:30 PM Sherwood Regional Library (Zoom if bad weather)	Unconscious Bias and Microaggressions Speakers: Meg Tuccillo and Patty Hagen
Saturday, March 15, 2025, 10:00 AM Via Zoom	Annual Business Meeting
March 28-29, 2025 Sheraton Suites of Old Town Alexandria	AAUW-VA Conference
Thursday, April 17, 2025, 1:30 PM Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Eliza Scidmore: The Trailblazing Journalist Behind Washington's Cherry Trees Author Diana Parsell will speak about her book and research.
Thursday, May 29, 2025, 6 PM Home of Paula Lettice	Annual Potluck
Wednesday, June 18, 2025 7 PM Reception / 8 PM Performance Little Theatre of Alexandria 600 Wolfe St, Alexandria, VA 22314	LTA Annual Fundraiser The Play That Goes Wrong
Saturday, June 21, 2025, 10:30 AM Sherwood Regional Library 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306	Annual Planning Session



at our Annual Fundraiser at the
Little Theatre of Alexandria

Wednesday, June 18, 2025
7 P.M. Reception / 8 P.M. Performance

A few tickets are still available.
Don't miss out.

For questions please contact Liz Promen



June 2025

- **16 Book Group, 7 P.M.**
Contact Liz Promen
- **18 LTA Fundraiser**
7 P.M. Reception
8 P.M. Performance
Contact Liz Promen
- **21 Annual Planning Session**
10:30 A.M.
Contact Patsy Quick/
Elaine Kolish
- **27 Game Night, 7:30 P.M.**
Contact Joanna Crane



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Book Group	17	18 LTA Fund-raiser	19	20	21 Annual Planning Session
22	23	24	25	26	27 Game Night	28
29	30					



Check out our website <https://mtvernon-va.aauw.net/>
Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/mtvernonvaaauw/>

